

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology
2 display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

3 displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having
4 two connections to two other nodes in the network; and

5 displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two
6 connections with the two other nodes, wherein the first connection path includes first and
7 second orthogonal segments and a curved segment joining the first and second segments in a
8 continuous manner, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of the second
9 connection path.

1 2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first
2 segment is a horizontal segment and wherein the second segment is a vertical segment.

1 3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the horizontal
2 segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion of a horizontal segment of the
3 second connection path.

1 4. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the vertical
2 segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion of a vertical segment of the
3 second connection path.

1 5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first
2 segment is connected to the displayed node, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a
3 portion of a segment of the second connection path.

1 6. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising
2 displaying a second node representing a second component in the network, wherein the
3 second segment is connected to the second displayed node.

1 7. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein the first
2 connection path further includes a third segment orthogonal to the second segment, and a
3 second curved segment joining the second segment to the third segment in a continuous
4 manner.

1 8. The computer-implemented method of claim 7, further comprising
2 displaying a second node representing a second component in the network, wherein the third
3 segment is connected to the second displayed node.

1 9. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising
2 highlighting the first connection path in response to a user selection of the first connection
3 path.

1 10. The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the step of
2 highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the first connection path.

1 11. The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the step of
2 highlighting includes changing the color of the first connection path.

1 12. The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the user
2 selection is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1 13. The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the user
2 selection is performed by the user selecting a first connection associated with the first
3 connection path from a list of network connections.

1 14. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the displayed
2 node represents one of a switch group and a host group.

1 15. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising
2 highlighting the connection paths for all connections to the displayed node in response to a
3 user indication.

1 16. The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the step of
2 highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the highlighted connection paths.

1 17. The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the step of
2 highlighting includes changing the colors of the highlighted connection paths.

1 18. The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the user
2 indication is input by the user using a computer mouse.

1 19. The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the user
2 indication includes a selection by the user from a menu of one or more options.

1 20. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the network is
2 a storage area network (SAN).

1 21. A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology
2 display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

3 displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having
4 two connections to two other nodes in the network;

5 displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two
6 connections with the two other nodes, wherein portions of the first and second connection
7 paths overlap; and

8 highlighting the first connection path in response to a user selection of the first
9 connection path.

1 22. The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein highlighting
2 includes increasing the thickness of the first connection path.

1 23. The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein highlighting
2 includes changing the color of the first connection path.

1 24. The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the user
2 selection is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1 25. The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the user
2 selection is performed by the user selecting a first connection associated with the first
3 connection path from a list of network connections.

1 26. A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology
2 display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:
3 displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having
4 two or more connections to two or more other nodes in the network;

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5 displaying two or more connection paths, each representing one of the
6 connections with the other nodes, wherein portions of a first displayed connection path
7 overlaps with a portion of a second displayed connection path; and
8 highlighting the displayed connection paths for all connections to the
9 displayed node in response to a user indication.

1 27. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein highlighting
2 includes increasing the thickness of the highlighted connection paths.

1 28. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein highlighting
2 includes changing the color of the highlighted connection paths.

1 29. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the user
2 indication is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1 30. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the user
2 indication includes a selection by the user from a menu of one or more options.

1 31. A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology
2 display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:
3 displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having
4 two connections to two other nodes in the network; and
5 displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two
6 connections with the two other nodes, wherein the first connection path includes first and
7 second orthogonal segments and a distinguishing segment joining the first and second
8 segments in a continuous manner, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of
9 the second connection path.

1 32. The computer-implemented method of claim 31, wherein the
2 distinguishing segment includes two or more polygonal portions.